

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 05238 270958Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9069

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 5238

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)
SUBJ: SECRETARY'S VISIT

REF: (A) STATE 173910, (B) STATE 173565, (C) STATE 174148.

1. WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE DIRECTOR OF ROYAL PROTOCOL, ABDUL WAHAB, CONCERNING THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO TAIF. (WE ARE IN TOUCH ALSO WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY BUT ROYAL PROTOCOL WILL HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SCHEDULING AND MOST ARRANGEMENTS.) BECAUSE OF THE CRUSH OF OTHER SENIOR FOREIGN VISITORS TO THE KINGDOM, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS UNTIL JULY 30. A TEA OF EMBASSY OFFICERS IS TRAVELLING TO TAIF SATURDAY FOR THIS PURPOSE.

2. PROTOCOL IS AWARE OF URGENCY OF PUTTING TOGETHER A SCHEDULE AND MAKING OTHER ARRANGEMENTS BUT THIS WEEK ROYAL PROTOCOL IS OVERSTRETCHED HANDLING VISITS OF PRESIDENT OF BANGLADESH AND PRIMERS OF ITALY AND LUXEMBOURG.

3. ROYAL PROTOCOL IS EXPERIENCED AND FAMILIAR WITH THE REQUESTS WE WILL BE MAKING IN CONNECTION WITH SECRETARY'S VISIT AND WILL RESPOND QUICKLY ONCE THEY HAVE FOCUSED ON IT.

4. THE AMBASSADOR HAS SEEN FOREIGN MINISTER PRINCE SAUD
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(JULY 25) AND DISCUSSED THE VISIT WITH HIM. SAUD SAID THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM AND THAT VISA REQUIREMENTS WILL BE WAIVED.

5. AFTER OUR MEETING IN TAIF ON SATURDAY WE EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE GENERALLY INFORMATION ON THE SCENARIO OF THE VISIT AND POSSIBLE DETAILED SCHEDULE.

6. IN THE MEANTIME WE ARE PROCEEDING WITH ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE VISIT WITH LOWER LEVEL CONTACT WITHIN THE SAG.

7. WE WILL INFORM SAG ROYAL PROTOCOL THAT OUR PREFERENCE IS FOR NO EXCHANGE OF GIFTS. BASED ON PAST EXPERIENCE WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THIS WILL BE COMPLETELY ACCEPTABLE TO SAG, ESPECIALLY GIVEN WORKING NATURE OF THE VISIT.

8. CONCERNING MRS. VANCE'S SCHEDULE: WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH DR. ABDULLAH MASRI, AN AMERICAN-TRAINED ARCHAEOLOGIST, WHO IS DIRECTOR OF THE KINGDOM'S ANTIQUITIES OFFICE, ABOUT ARRANGING A VISIT TO CAVES WITH PREHISTORIC DRAWINGS AND OTHER SITES OF ANCIENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST. AS WE DEVELOP THIS PROGRAM WE WILL INFORM THE SECRETARY'S PARTY.
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